

Testimony on S.B. 205 and S.B. 123

I, Beverly Hartley, am writing to express my strong support for the proposed bills S.B. 205, An Act Concerning Enhancements to Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act, and S.B. 123, An Act Concerning Vegetation Near Wetlands and Watercourses. These proposed bills make needed policy changes to protect our watershed lands, so critical for a clean and healthy water supply.

S.B. 205 will:

Clarify that it is the policy of the state to protect inland wetlands and watercourses.

Empower municipal Inland Wetlands Commissions use all relevant information available when reviewing proposed development, including citizens' observations, water company reports, state reports, and environmental reviews.

S.B. 123 will:

Direct local Inland Wetlands Commissions to protect vegetation near wetlands and watercourses as is reasonably possible. Natural vegetation is vital to the state's water quality and flood protection.

I strongly urge the Committee to vote favorably on S.B. 205 and S.B. 123. These proposed laws will create the kind of environmental outcomes we all desire—better, common-sense protections for the wetlands, streams, rivers and ponds in our state.

Respectfully submitted,
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